

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines



Assignment 2: July 2023 submission – certified environmental approaches in Bordeaux

Context

In 2014, fewer than 35% of all wineries in Bordeaux practiced some form of certified environmental approach (including certified organic and biodynamic approaches). By 2020 this had reached 65% and the region is on course to hit the Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin de Bordeaux's (CIVB) target of 100% by 2030. Climate change, viticultural and vinification practices, along with corporate social responsibility (CSR) all have factored in this change and are expected to inform trends in the long term.

[See below for required sections and allocation of marks]

Instructions for candidates

- Assignments must adhere to the word count of 3,000 words. A tolerance of 10% will be allowed which means the research assignment should be no fewer than 2,700 words and no longer than 3,300 words in length. The word count excludes references, bibliography, appendices, diagrams or tables.
- Candidates must include a bibliography showing the sources used to research the topic.
- Candidates are reminded of the need to draw on a range of sources in their assignment and that it will be necessary to read around the subject matter. It will not be sufficient to rely solely on the Diploma materials. There should be clear evidence of critical analysis of the source material and well-reasoned personal commentary, together with relevant examples to support the points made.
- There are 100 marks available, of which 15 are allocated to presentation (spelling, grammar, legibility, bibliography and referencing) and answer structure/style (coherence, flair, fluency and use of examples). Footnotes, references and appendices must be used correctly. Candidates are advised to read the *D6 Independent Research Guidelines* before starting their research.
- Candidates must address all required sections and gain a minimum overall mark of 55% to qualify for a pass grade.

Required sections and allocation of marks

Candidates must address the following required sections:

- 1) Outline the certification options available to wineries in Bordeaux seeking an environmental approach. (15% weighting)
- 2) Commenting on both the environmental and commercial benefits, explain how wineries have already adapted their methods, and plan to shape their practices to become more environmentally considerate in the run up to the 2030 target. Use examples to illustrate your answer. (40% weighting)
- 3) In the long term, how do you see the Bordeaux region and its wines continuing to change? (30% weighting)

15% weighting is allocated to presentation and structure, as outlined in Instructions for candidates above.